(b) whether it is also a fact that by the time the orphan boys and girls reach the age of 18, they do not complete education enough to enable them get employment and for factors such as ban on under-aged employment, etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to provide for retention of orphans for some more years and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a child is defined as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. Accordingly, the children homes which are established and maintained by the State Governments/UT Administrations under this Act, either by themselves, or in association with the voluntary organizations, for children in need of care and protection keep these children upto the age of 18 years.

(b) Children Homes are supposed to be functioning as comprehensive child care centres and are expected to provide facilities which include education to all children according to their age and ability, either inside the home or outside. The children homes are also required to facilitate vocational training to children under the guidance of trained instructors.

The ban on employment under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 as well as the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment is with the intention of providing better scope for education to these children. There may, however, be children who have not completed education by the age of 18 years.

(c) Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment or recognition of After Care Organizations for children between the age of 17 to 18 years who may stay in these organizations till the age of 20 years. These organizations are expected to enable the children to prepare themselves for an honest, industrious and useful life after they leave children homes. Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments for full implementation of the provision of the Act.

Anganwadi Centres

†452. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Anganwadi Centres in the entire country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh requires more than one lakh Anganwadi Centres; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government to run so many Anganwadi Centres, as are required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 1052638 Anganwadi Centres sanctioned by Government of India in the country. Of these, 970508 Anganwadi Centres became operational as on 30.11.2007.

(b) and (c) In Madhya Pradesh, 69238 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of India, so far. All the State Governments/UTs including Government of Madhya Pradesh were requested to carry out a micro level survey with particular focus on SC/ST and minority habitations. Government of Madhya Pradesh has furnished requirement of 9691 additional Anganwadi Centres under 3rd phase of expansion of ICDS Scheme.

Revamping of ICDS

453. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revamp the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to increase the Anganwadi Centres under this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof *inter alia* indicating those that would be added in Orissa; and

(e) the action plan of Government to fight malnutrition among pregnant women/children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The details, however, are being worked out.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) For the 3rd Phase of expansion a requirement of 2.13 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) has been received from all the States/UTs which includes a requirement for 21128 AWCs from the State of Orissa.

(e) It is proposed to restructure the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and implement it in a Mission Mode.

Early marriage of girls

454. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, according to a study conducted by the International Centre for Research on Women, 57 per cent of girls are married off before they reach the age of 18;

(b) whether this constitutes violation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act as amended in 1978; and

(c) whether Government proposes to review the law and if so, the details of its aims and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), an ICRW study "New Insights on Preventing Child Marriage: A Global Analysis of Factors and Programs (April 2007)", uses data from the National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) to suggest that 59% of girls in rural India marry before the age of 18 years.

(b) and (c) In order to prohibit child marriages and to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a new legislation "The Prohibition